

Info Capsule

ONLINE REGISTRATION MECHANISM FOR SECURITIES MARKET INTERMEDIARIES¹

1. It has been SEBI's continuous endeavour to improve ease of doing business by adopting technological solutions in its interface with market participants. Accordingly, SEBI has operationalized SEBI Intermediary Portal (<https://siportal.sebi.gov.in>) for the intermediaries to submit their applications online in paperless manner. The Intermediary Portal provides for online application for registration, processing of application, grant of final registration, application for surrender / cancellation, etc.

Link for SEBI Intermediary Portal has been made available on SEBI website - www.sebi.gov.in.

2. The SEBI online dedicated portal for registration is operational for all intermediaries which includes Stock Brokers, Sub-brokers, Depository Participants, Mutual Funds, Merchant Bankers, Underwriters, Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents, Debenture Trustees, Bankers to an Issue, Credit Rating Agencies, Investment Advisors, Research Analysts, Portfolio Managers, Venture Capital Funds, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Alternative investment Funds (AIFs), Custodians and Collective Investment Schemes (CIS).
3. Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of India, in his speech while presenting the Budget for FY 2017-18 on February 01, 2017, had also highlighted that the process of registration of financial market intermediaries will be made fully online by SEBI.

CURBING MISUSE OF BULK SMS IN THE SECURITIES MARKET²

There are increasing instances of bulk SMSs being sent to investors and the general public inducing them to invest in or purchase the stocks of certain listed companies, indicating target prices and giving fraudulent misleading/false information. In lieu of this, SEBI regulation requires that investment advice and stock tips can only be given by Investment Advisors and certain other entities that are duly registered with SEBI. However, the main challenge faced was the lack of reliable information on the identity of senders of such SMSs which created road blocks for SEBI in taking necessary enforcement action against them.

In view of the detrimental effect of fraudulent bulk SMSs on the integrity of markets and confidence of investors, SEBI sought the attention of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which has been entrusted with regulation of the telecommunication services so as to protect the interest of the consumers of telecommunications service and the public at large.

¹ Available at: http://www.sebi.gov.in/web/?file=../../sebi_data/attachdocs/aug-2017/1502893549981.pdf#page=1&zoom=auto,-15,772

² Available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

TRAI and SEBI collaborated closely to review the existing regulatory framework and industry practices to help in reducing the vulnerability of securities market to manipulation through misuse of mass communication device like bulk SMS.

TRAI vide its notification no. F. No.311-3/2015-QoS dated August 10, 2017 issued directions to all Access Providers to follow certain operational guidelines for SMSs relating to investment advice/stock tips using the bulk SMS channel. SEBI believes that these directions will go a long way to curb the dissemination of fraudulent and misleading information through the bulk SMS channel.

PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS PROGRESS OF SOIL HEALTH CARDS AND PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)³

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, reviewed the progress of two key schemes related to the agriculture sector – Soil Health Cards and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Sixteen States or Union Territories have completed the first cycle of Soil Health Cards distribution, and the remaining States are likely to complete the same within few weeks.

Reviewing the progress, the Prime Minister said that appropriate checks should be undertaken for variation, both within a sampling grid, and across different soil testing labs. He emphasized that soil health cards should be printed in the local dialect of the area, so that the farmers are able to read and understand them easily.

Encouraging the rapid adoption of latest technology, the Prime Minister said that soil testing should eventually be possible through hand-held devices. He urged officials to explore the possibility of involving start-ups and entrepreneurs in this exercise.

On Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), in the Kharif season of 2016, and Rabi season of 2016-17, claims of over Rs. 7700 crore have already been paid, and over 90 lakh farmers have been benefited.

The latest technology including smartphones, remote sensing, satellite data and drones are being used for speedy data collection with regard to crop insurance claims.

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³ Available at: http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-reviews-progress-of-soil-health-cards-and-pmfby/?comment=disable